Mr. P J. Thomas: An estimate has been received and it is under consideration.

Mr. K. M. Kesavan: Does the Honourable member know the time it will take?

Mr. P. J. Thomas: No.

Mr. Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai (*Quilon* cum *Kunnathnad*): May I know the matter under discussion with regard to this bridge?

Mr. P. J. Thomas: It is only a question of providing funds.

Certificates of registration under the Insurance Act.

32. ***Mr. V. Sankara Menon** (*Trivandrum and Nedumangad* cum *Chirayinkil*): (1) Will the Government be pleased to state whether any insurers are carrying on business in Travancore without the necessary certificates of registration, and if so, what action is being taken in the matter?

(2) Will they be pleased to state:

(*a*) the number of insurance agents who have taken out licences under the Act till 31st March 1941 and the amount of licence fee realised during the period; and

(*b*) the number of licences issued and the amount of fee realised including renewal fee for the year ending 31st March 1942?

Mr. Puthupally S. Krishna Pillai: (1) Yes. Such Insurers have been asked to obtain the certificate of Registration soon or to stop doing business in this State.

(2) (*a*) 418 Agents have taken out licences under the Act till the 31st March 1941. A sum of S. Rs. 2,611 has been realised as licence fee till the said date.

(*b*) 318 licences (of which 305 are renewed licences) have been issued for the year ending the 31st March 1942. A sum of S. Rs. 370 has been realised as fee.

Mr. V. Sankara Menon: With reference to answer to part (1) may I know why these Insurance Agents are allowed to carry on business?

Mr. Puthupally S. Krishna Pillai: Steps are being taken to prevent from doing so. Before prosecuting them Government are trying to see whether they would conform to the provisions of the Act. If the Government are satisfied that they are persistant in their negligence, they will be prosecuted.

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Mr. V. Sankara Menon: May I know whether the Government realise that it is two years since they have been doing this?

Mr. Puthupally S. Krishna Pillai: Yes. But they are in correspondence with Government asking for more favourable terms, but the matter will be decided soon.

State Life Insurance.

33. ***Mr. V. Sankara Menon**: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether any concessions are allowed in the matter of licence fee to the authorised agents of the Travancore State Insurance (Public Branch);

(*b*) whether usual licence fees are levied from the agents working in British India under the Indian Insurance Act and whether they have obtained licences under the Act IV of 1938 for doing business in British India?

Mr. Puthupally S. Krishna Pillai: (*a*) The Travancore State Insurance (Public Branch) does not come within the ambit of the Travancore Insurance Act, XIX of 1114—*Vide* Section 118. Agents canvassing business for the State Insurance are, therefore, not required to take up licences under the Act.

(*b*) No information is available here.

Salt manufactured in the State.

34. ***Mr. T. Krishna Pillai** (*Kalkulam and Vilavankod* cum *Neyyattinkara*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the quantity of salt manufactured in the State during the last ten years, giving the figures for each year for each factory;

(*b*) the area under salt cultivation during these ten years, giving the figure for each year separately;

(*c*) the expenditure under salaries, allowances and contingencies for salt factories during each year for that period; and

(*d*) the quantity of Tinnevelly and Bombay salt purchased during the last ten years giving the figures for each year separately?

Mr. P. G. Narayanan Unnithan (*Excise Commissioner*): (*a*) to (*d*) * Statements containing the information required are appened.

Mr. T. Krishna Pillai: May I know the total quantity of salt required for the whole State?

Mr. P. G. Narayanan Unnithan: It is about 13 lakhs of maunds per year for home consumption.

Mr. T. Krishna Pillai: So, am I to understand that there is over-production now?

Mr. P G. Narayanan Unnithan: Yes, Sir.

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